2016 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry of Finance ***Fact Sheet 10***

Aboriginal Peoples of Ontario

This factsheet looks at the 2016 Census data on the Aboriginal peoples of Canada released by Statistics Canada.

Ontario's Aboriginal Population

- In the 2016 census, 374,395 people self-identified as Aboriginal persons in Ontario. This represented 2.8% of the province's total population, an increase from 2.4% in 2011.
- North American Indians accounted for a majority of the Aboriginal population, representing 63.2% in 2016, down from 66.7% in 2011. The Métis followed at 32.2% (up from 28.5% in 2011), and the Inuit at 1.0% (down from 1.1% in 2011).
- Between 2011 and 2016, Ontario's Aboriginal population grew 23.1%, much faster than the non-Aboriginal population, which grew by 4.2%. Several factors may account for the faster growth, both demographic and non-demographic (e.g. more individuals choosing to identify themselves as an Aboriginal person).
- Of the three Aboriginal groups, the fastest gains in population between 2011 and 2016 occurred among the Métis, increasing 40.2%. The number of people identifying as North American Indian and Inuit rose by 15.6% and 15.1%, respectively.

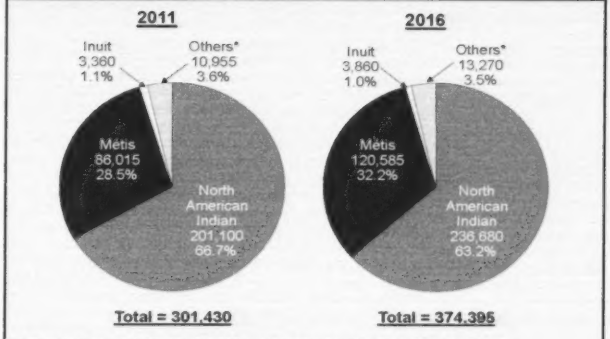
One in Six Aboriginal People Lived on Reserves

- 14.5% of all Aboriginal people in Ontario lived on reserves in 2016, down from 15.9% in 2011. Of those on reserves, nearly all (99%) were North American Indian, virtually unchanged from 2011. Within the North American Indian population, 22.7% lived on reserves in 2016, down from 23.6% in 2011.

The Aboriginal Population is Relatively Younger

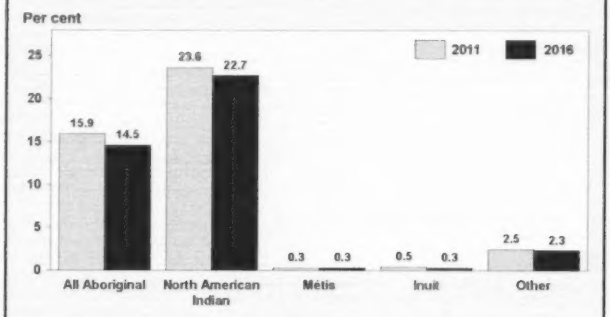
- The Aboriginal population is younger than the non-Aboriginal population. Almost a third (32.5%) of the Aboriginal population consists of children and teenagers aged 19 and under, compared with 22.5% for the non-Aboriginal population. The share of seniors in the Aboriginal people in 2016 increased to 7.9% from 6.7% in 2011, but was less than half the share of seniors in the non-Aboriginal population (16.2%).

Aboriginal Groups of Ontario



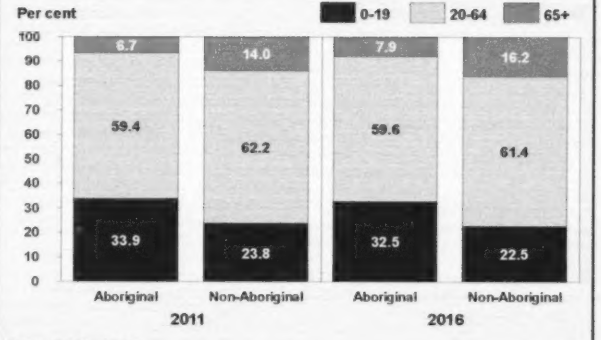
* Others include multiple Aboriginal identities and other Aboriginal identities not included elsewhere.
Source: Statistics Canada

Aboriginal Population Living on Reserves, Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada

Age Distribution of the Population, Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada

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Office of Economic Policy
Labour Economics Branch

The Aboriginal Population Across Canada

- The number of Canadians identifying as Aboriginal increased from 1,400,685 in 2011 to 1,673,780 in 2016.
- Ontario, the most populous province, is also the province with the largest Aboriginal population. One in five of the country's Aboriginal people (22.4%) lived in Ontario in 2016.
- BC had the second-largest Aboriginal population (16.2% of Canada's), followed by Alberta (15.5%).

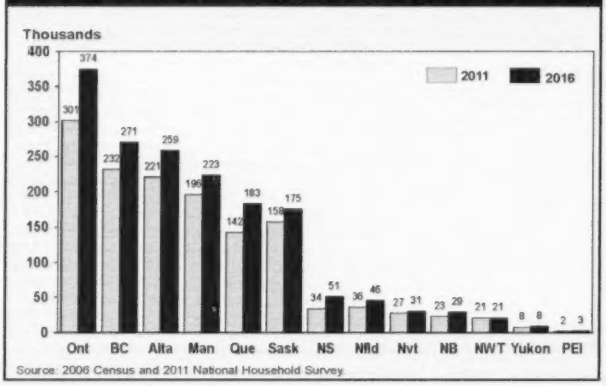
Aboriginal Population Growth Fastest East of Manitoba

- Most Aboriginal people lived in Ontario and the West, but the fastest increase in the last five years occurred East of Manitoba.
- Between 2011 and 2016, the number of people identifying as Aboriginal increased 52.1% in Nova Scotia, 29.9% in New Brunswick, 27.7% in Newfoundland and Labrador, 26.8% in Quebec, 23.1% in Ontario, and 22.9% in PEI.
- Among regions with higher proportions of Aboriginal people in the population (above 15%), the fastest increases were in Manitoba (13.7%) and Nunavut (11.7%). The Northwest Territories saw a 1.4% decline.

The Territories and Prairie Provinces have the Highest Concentration of Aboriginal Population

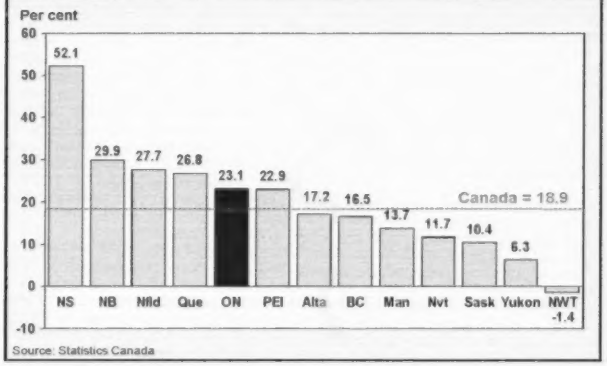
- The proportion of the Canadian population identifying as Aboriginal rose from 4.3% in 2011 to 4.9% in 2016.
- Nunavut had the highest proportion of Aboriginal people in its population in 2016 (85.9%), followed by the Northwest Territories (50.7%) and the Yukon (23.3%).
- Among the provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the largest proportion of Aboriginal people at 18.0% and 16.3%, respectively.
- All provinces east of Manitoba had less than 6% of Aboriginal people in their populations, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador whose Aboriginal peoples accounted for 8.9% of the total population.
- In Ontario, Aboriginal people accounted for 2.8% of the total population in 2016, up from 2.4% in 2011.
- 53% of Aboriginal people in Ontario lived in Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs). Thunder Bay, Greater Sudbury, and Belleville CMAs had the highest shares of Aboriginal people in total population, at 12.7%, 9.7% and 5.2% respectively. Enumeration issues in Brantford lowered its share from 8.5% in 2011 to 4.8% in 2016.

The Aboriginal Population, by Province



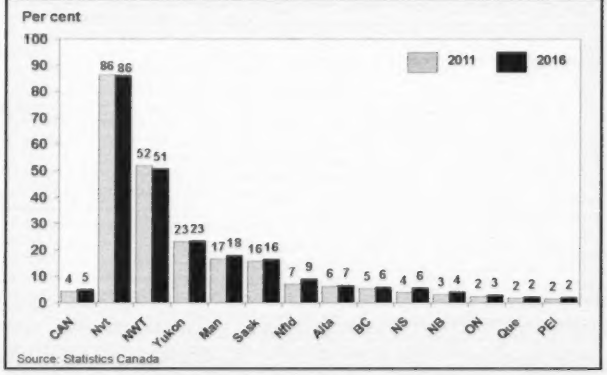
Source: 2006 Census and 2011 National Household Survey.

2011-2016 Aboriginal Population Growth, by Province and Territory



Source: Statistics Canada

Share of Aboriginal People in Total Population



Source: Statistics Canada

Contact Alex Munger (416) 325-0102